



Contact:
Emily Duncan
(317) 234-1745
eduncan@ihcda.in.gov
October 20, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

State Receives Prestigious National Award Recognizing Innovative Homeless Solutions

Indiana was brought into the national spotlight this month at the 2009 National Council of State Housing Agencies' (NCSHA) Annual Trade Show and Conference in San Antonio, Texas. The Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) was presented with the 2009 Annual Award for Program Excellence for Special Needs Housing Combating Homelessness, for its efforts to end homelessness through Permanent Supportive Housing.

"This recognition highlights the progress we have made as we continue to advocate for our most vulnerable neighbors. We share this honor with our partners in this effort who are working throughout the state to end the cycle of chronic homeless," says Lt. Governor Becky Skillman. Under her direction, IHCDA has collaborated with various agencies including Indiana's Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA), The Transformation Work Group (TWG), and the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH). Through this cooperation, the Indiana Permanent Supportive Housing Initiative (IPSHI) has transformed how homeless prevention and services are viewed and provided to the public.

"It has been a real honor to work with the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) to help develop the Indiana Permanent Supportive Housing Initiative (IPSHI)," said Katrina Van Valkenburgh, Director of the Corporation for Supportive Housing's Illinois and Indiana Programs. "IHCDA created a model other states should look to and replicate. One of the unique features has been IHCDA's commitment to bringing sister agencies on board, producing a collaboration that ensures people who face the most barriers to housing are given an opportunity to live with dignity and improve their own lives and the lives of their children."

Permanent Supportive Housing is a model of providing services to the chronically homeless. It combines social services (medical, mental, addiction treatment, etc.) with housing. The initiative is an effective strategy to support persons who cannot find housing without proper services, and cannot obtain the services they need without proper housing. As a part of the Initiative, the Indiana Permanent Supportive Housing Institute is an intensive, interactive, technical training to help organizations move projects from concept to completion.

Dennis Jones of the Transformation Work Group said, "The single biggest challenge for people dealing with both mental illness and homelessness is having an affordable and stable place to call home; this initiative will do that for hundreds and hundreds of Hoosiers. I applaud this award but more importantly the promise of successful community living for people often forgotten."

Since 2008, the Institute has selected 21 teams from across the state who have been selected to participate in a six month, 80 hour training and technical assistance course. Participants have access to limited CSH predevelopment financing for projects, as well as learn how to access new and underutilized public funding sources that can increase the long-term success of developing and operating permanent supportive housing. The teams participating in the institute are pairings of nonprofit organizations, developers, and other service entities. It is estimated that the proposed projects will represent over 700 units of permanent supportive housing by the year 2011.

In addition to receiving this award, Indiana's Permanent Supportive Housing Initiative has been recognized as a best practice by Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in recent national trainings and will be highlighted later this year in a new textbook.

#####

The Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority's (IHCDA) mission is for every Hoosier to have the opportunity to live in safe, affordable, good-quality housing in economically stable communities. IHCDA believes that growing Indiana's economy starts at home. For more information, go to www.ihcda.in.gov. For updates from Lt. Governor Becky Skillman and the agencies she oversees, please sign up at www.in.gov/lgov.